



Information about your water, drainage, wastewater and solid waste utility services.



Holiday Season Left You with Old Electronics?

Seattle Public Utilities will pick up and recycle TVs, computers and other electronic items from your curb for a \$20 fee. Call **206-684-3000** to request an electronics collection. Apartment residents should contact their building manager to arrange for electronics collection.

Looking for a free option? Contact www.ecyclewashington.org or **1-800-RECYCLE** for computer and TV drop-off locations.

Also visit www.takeitbacknetwork.org for cell phone and fluorescent light bulb drop-off locations. Some charge a fee.

Winter Collections

Garbage, recycling, and food and yard waste pickups can be delayed during snowy and icy weather.

If your container is not picked up during a storm, leave it out to be collected the following day. If weather still prevents collection, put all of your items out the next week on your regular collection day.

Collections will be on normal schedule for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, January 17, and Presidents Day, Monday, February 21. Customers should place their containers out by 7 a.m. to ensure collection.

Be the first to know!

Sign up for *CurbWaste & Conserve E-News* to receive e-mail alerts on weather impacts to your services. Go to www.seattle.gov/lists. Or, follow us on Twitter – www.twitter.com/SeattleSPU.



2011 Rate Changes

New water, sewer, drainage, and solid waste rates take effect January 1, 2011. The water and drainage rates will finance critical capital improvement projects and protect the city's environment through water quality improvements. These include capping the city's drinking water reservoirs and funding combined sewer overflow projects to help the city meet federal and state pollution standards. The new solid waste rates cover costs for the new collection contracts and service enhancements, and will also finance rebuilding the city's aging recycling and disposal stations. For more information on rates, please visit our website at www.seattle.gov/util and click on "Billing."

Typical Residential Bill per Month

Service	2010	2011
Water ¹	\$32.91	\$34.01
Sewer ^{1, 2}	\$46.70	\$53.46 <small>(\$36.09 related to King County Metro Treatment costs)</small>
Drainage ^{2, 3}	\$17.17	\$19.58
Solid Waste ⁴	\$32.70	\$34.75

¹ Typical residential bills assume monthly water usage of 5.5 ccf (hundred cubic feet) for water service and 5.2 ccf for sewer service.

² 68 percent of sewer revenue and one percent of drainage revenue is for King County Metro sewage treatment and related costs.

³ Drainage fees are billed for SPU as a separate line item on King County's annual property tax statements. The typical residential bill is for a parcel in the 5,000-6,999 square foot rate class.

⁴ Typical residential solid waste service is a 32-gallon garbage container and a 96-gallon food and yard waste container.

Customers Crazy About Compost

Seattle Public Utilities received more than 600 responses to our recent food and yard waste customer survey. Here's what you have to say!

- More than 85 percent of surveyed residents are very satisfied with their food and yard waste service.
- 96 percent of residents use their carts to compost their leftover food scraps.
- 72 percent take their food waste to the curb every week.
- Most use a reusable container or paper or compostable bag to store their kitchen scraps before taking them to the curb.

Most customers participate in food scrap collection because it reduces waste sent to the landfill, it's good for the environment, and it's easy! Last year, Seattle residents diverted more than 73,000 tons of organic waste from the landfill through food and yard waste collection. Way to go!

Residents gave us hundreds of ideas to improve the program and help more residents participate. Stay tuned to future issues of @ Your Service to read about them. To learn more about what can go in your food and yard waste cart, or tips on how to get started, visit www.seattle.gov/util/foodwaste.



Sorting Out Takeout



All takeout and fast food containers now must be compostable or recyclable. It's a big change and requires a little thought before you dump your tray, so here are three suggestions to help you sort the packaging:

- All paper napkins and paper towels go in compost.
- All empty paper hot beverage cups go in recycling.
- All coated-paper products such as take out boxes go in recycling – as long as they are clean.

At Your Favorite Eatery

Stop, think and sort – It takes a moment, but lots of people say once they've tried it, it's easy.

At Home

Visit www.seattle.gov/util/foodwaste for a list of compostable containers permitted in your food and yard waste cart.

Still in Doubt? Toss It Out!

Prevent contamination of recycling and compost.



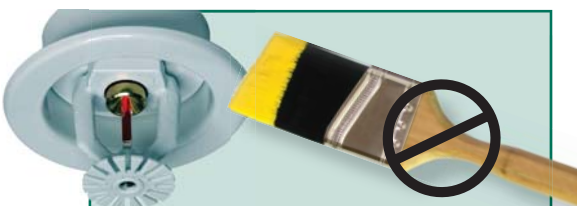
Food+
Compostables



Recycling



Garbage



Don't Paint!

Fire sprinklers can save your life if there is a fire in your home. But fire sprinklers may not work if they are painted after leaving the factory. The fire code requires any sprinkler head that is painted after installation be replaced.

For more information call the Seattle Fire Marshal's Office at **206-386-1448** or e-mail fireinfo@seattle.gov.

Cold weather burst your pipes?

Below-freezing temperatures can burst water pipes around your home, potentially causing serious property damage and wasting large amounts of water.

While burst pipes are usually easy to spot, smaller breaks often go unnoticed, so regularly check these areas for leaks:

- Make sure outdoor faucets aren't dripping and if you can access the pipe that feeds the faucet, inspect it for any leaks.
- Check sprinkler heads for leaks, and look for unusually damp sections in your garden which may point to an underground leak.
- Pipes in your basement, crawlspace or garage are often subjected to freezing temperatures so look for wet spots or puddles on the ground.
- Inspect the pipes for tankless water heaters that run along the exterior of your house for leaks.
- Check any indoor sink pipes that are against exterior walls.

For more information on preparing water pipes for winter weather, visit www.takewinterbystorm.org.

@ Your Service is published bimonthly by the Seattle Public Utilities Customer Service Branch, 700 5th Ave., Suite 2777; PO Box 34027; Seattle, WA 98124-4027. @ Your Service is also available at: www.seattle.gov/util

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